Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for automated management and standardization of non-public financial statement information associated with at least one business comprising:

receiving at a network-based data processing system financial statement information from an agent of a contributing business as an electronic data file, the financial statement information associated with the contributing business and originating from a financial accounting system used by the contributing business to maintain its general ledger accounting records, wherein the financial statement information collectively corresponds to the overall financial state of the ~~submitting~~ contributing business;

storing financial statement information as electronic data on the data processing system, the financial statement information having a first format based on a first set of performance classifications;

converting, using an automated process executing on the data processing system, the financial statement information from the first format to a second standardized format based at least in part on a conversion map associated with the contributing business, the conversion map defining a correspondence between one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and one or more respective performance classifications of a second set of standardized performance classifications;

aggregating the converted financial statement information with financial statement information associated with at least one other business, thereby creating a database of standardized private company financial statement information;

analyzing the converted financial information associated with the contributing business based at least in part on one or more performance metrics with an automated program executing on the data processing system;

automatically generating at least one electronic report based on results of the analyzing; and

automatically providing at least a portion of the at least one electronic report to at least one requesting party.

2.   (Cancelled.)

3.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 1, wherein the at least one electronic report includes at least one alert indicator to identify at least one performance metric of the converted financial statement information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value specified by the at least one recipient that exceeds an adjustable threshold associated with the at least one performance metric.

4.   (Original) The method as in Claim 3, wherein the predetermined value includes a value of the performance metric from a previous period.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 3, wherein the predetermined value includes a target value for the at least one performance metric.

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6.   (Original) The method as in Claim 3, wherein the predetermined value includes a value representative of an industry average for the at least one performance metric.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

        receiving at the data processing system financial statement information from a second contributing business as an electronic data file, the financial statement information containing information associated with a second contributing business taken from a financial accounting system used by the second contributing business to maintain its general ledger accounting records, the financial statement information having a third format based on a third set of performance classifications;

        converting, using an automated process, the financial statement information associated with the second business from the third format to the second format based at least in part on a conversion map defining a correspondence between one or more performance classifications of the third set of performance classifications and one or more respective performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications;

        aggregating the converted financial statement information associated with the second contributing business with the other aggregated financial statement information; and

        analyzing the converted financial statement information associated with the second business based at least in part on one or more performance metrics.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 7, further comprising:

        generating at least one electronic report based on results of the analysis of the converted financial statement information associated with the second business.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 7, further comprising:

analyzing at least one performance metric of at least one of the first and second

businesses based on one or more representative performance metrics from the aggregated

converted financial statement information.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method as in Claim 1, wherein receiving the financial

statement information includes receiving the information as one or more data files uploaded by

[[an]]the agent of the contributing business via a website.

11.   (Cancelled.)

12.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 1, wherein the at least one electronic

report is received for the contributing business via a website.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 1, wherein the conversion of the

financial statement information from the first format to the second format is performed at least in

part using one or more software programs.

14.   (Cancelled.)

15.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 1, wherein the contributing business is one of a group consisting of: a private business; a non-profit organization; and a government agency.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 1, further comprising:

        providing at least one alert to the at least one requesting party, the alert identifying at least one performance metric of the converted financial statement information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds an adjustable threshold associated with the at least one performance metric set by the requesting party.

17.   (Original) The method as in Claim 16, wherein the predetermined value includes a value of the performance metric from a previous period.

18.   (Original) The method as in Claim 16, wherein the predetermined value includes a target value set for the at least one performance metric.

19.   (Original) The method as in Claim 16, wherein the predetermined value includes a value representative of an industry average for the at least one performance metric.

20.   (Original) The method as in Claim 16, wherein the alert is delivered via at least one of a group comprising: an email; a facsimile; a voice message; and a text message.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 1, further comprising:

delivering at least a portion of the converted financial statement information to a requesting party as one or more data files having a format compatible with software operated by the at least one requesting party.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 1, wherein one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes a financial account and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes a financial account correlated to a financial account of the first set.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 1, further comprising receiving operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes an operational classification and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes an operational classification correlated to a operational classification of the first set.

24.   (Currently Amended) A method for automated management of financial statement information associated with at least one non-public business, the method comprising:

receiving financial statement information at a remote data processing system as an electronic data filed uploaded by an agent of a submitting business via a graphical user interface (GUI), the financial statement information associated with the submitting business and originating from an accounting system used by the submitting business to maintain its general ledger accounting records, the financial statement information having a first format based on a

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first set of performance classifications and collectively corresponding to the overall financial
state of the submitting business;

automatically selecting at least one automated software program for the financial
statement information associated with the submitting business with the data processing system;

converting, using the at least one automated software program executing on the data
processing system, the financial statement information from the first format to a second
standardized format based at least in part on a mapping between one or more performance
classifications of the first set of performance classifications and one or more corresponding
performance classifications of a second set of performance classifications;

aggregating the converted financial statement information with financial statement
information associated with at least one other business, thereby creating a standardized database
of private company financial statement information;

analyzing, using at least one automated software program executing on the data
processing system, the converted financial statement information based at least in part on one or
more performance metrics;

automatically creating at least one performance report based on results of the analysis of
the converted financial statement information with the data server; and

providing the at least one performance report to at least one requesting party via the GUI.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 24, wherein the GUI includes one or
more web pages of a website and the data processing system includes at least one web server
associated with the website.

26.   (Cancelled.)

27.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 24, wherein the submitting business is one of a group consisting of: a private business; a non-profit organization; and a government agency.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 24, further comprising:

providing a least one alert to the at least one requesting party via the website, the alert identifying at least one performance metric of the converted financial statement information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds an adjustable threshold associated with the at least one performance metric set by the requesting party.

29.   (Original) The method as in Claim 28, wherein the alert is delivered from the website via at least one of a group comprising: an email; a facsimile; a voice message; and a text message.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 25, further comprising:

delivering at least a portion of the converted financial statement information to at least one requesting party via the website as one or more data files having a format compatible with software operated by the requesting party.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 24, wherein one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes a financial

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account and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes a financial

account correlated to a financial account of the first set.

32.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 24, further comprising receiving

operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set

of performance classifications includes an operational classification and one or more of the

performance classifications of the second set includes an operational classification correlated to a

operational classification of the first set.

33.   (Currently Amended) A network-based performance information management system

for automated management of financial statement information associated with at least one non-

public business, the system comprising:

     a remote data processing computer connected to a computer network, comprising

          a performance information receipt module that receives performance information

     uploads over the computer network from an agent of a submitting business in the form of

     an electronic data file containing financial statement taken from the submitting business's

     general ledger accounting system, the financial statement information having a first

     format based on a first set of performance classifications and collectively corresponding

     to the overall financial state of the submitting business;

          a mapping module, including a map database, that converts the financial

     statement information from the first format to a second standardized format based at least

     in part on a mapping between one or more performance classifications of the first set of

performance classifications and one or more performance classifications of a second set of performance classifications, the mapping maintained in the map database;

a database module for storing the converted information with information associated with at least one submitting business with other aggregated financial statement information associated with other businesses thereby creating a standardized database of private company financial statement information;

an analysis module for analyzing the converted financial statement information based at least in part on one or more performance metrics; and

a performance report/alert generation module for generating at least one performance report based on results of the analysis module, the performance report/alert generation module providing the at least one performance report to at least one requesting party.

34. (Cancelled.)

35. (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 33, wherein the at least one performance report includes at least one alert indicator to identify at least one performance metric of the converted performance information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds an adjustable threshold associated with the performance metric.

36. (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 35, wherein the predetermined value includes a value of the performance metric from a previous period.

37.   (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 35, wherein the predetermined value includes a target value set for the performance metric.

38.   (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 35, wherein the predetermined value includes a value representative of an industry average for the performance metric.

39.   (Currently Amended) The system as in Claim 33, further comprising:

the performance information receipt module receiving financial statement information associated with a second submitting business over the computer network, the financial statement information having a third format based on a third set of performance classifications;

the mapping module converting the financial statement information associated with the second submitting business from the third format to the second format based at least in part on a conversion map defining a correspondence between one or more performance classifications of the third set of performance classifications and one or more respective performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications;

the database module aggregating the converted financial statement information associated with the second submitting business with the other aggregated financial statement information; and

the analysis module analyzing the converted financial statement information associated with the second submitting business.

40. (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 39, the performance report/alert generation module generating one or more performance reports based on results the analysis of the converted financial statement information associated with the second submitting business.

41. (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 39, the database module aggregating the converted financial statement information associated with the submitting businesses; and

the analysis module analyzing a performance of at least one of the submitting businesses based on one or more representative performance metrics from the aggregated converted financial statement information.

42. (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 33, wherein the performance report/alert generation module includes a website adapted to receive the financial statement information as one or more uploaded data files.

43. (Cancelled.)

44. (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 33, wherein the performance report/alert generation module includes a website adapted to provide the one or more performance reports as one or more web pages.

45. (Cancelled.)

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46.   (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 33, wherein the submitting business is one of a group consisting of: a private business; a non-profit organization; and a government agency.

47.   (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 33, the performance report/alert generation module further providing at least one alert to at least one requesting party, the alert identifying at least one performance metric of the converted financial statement information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds an adjustable threshold associated with the at least one performance metric that is set by the requesting party.

48.   (Original) The system as in Claim 47, wherein the predetermined value includes a value of the performance metric from a previous period.

49.   (Original) The system as in Claim 47, wherein the predetermined value includes a target value set for the at least one performance metric.

50.   (Original) The system as in Claim 47, wherein the predetermined value includes a value representative of an industry average for the at least one performance metric.

51.   (Original) The system as in Claim 47, wherein the alert is delivered via at least one of a group comprising: an email; a facsimile; a voice message; and a text message.

52.　(Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 33, the performance report/alert generation module delivering at least a portion of the converted financial statement information to the at least one requesting party as one or more data files having a format compatible with software operated by the requesting party.

53.　(Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 33, wherein the financial statement information includes financial information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes a financial account and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes a financial account correlated to a financial account of the first set.

54.　(Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 33, wherein the performance information further includes operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes an operational classification and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes an operational classification correlated to a operational classification of the first set.

55.　(Currently Amended) A system for automated management of non-public financial statement associated with at least one business, the system comprising:

　　one or more networked servers adapted to:

　　　　operate a website having one or more web pages;

　　　　receive financial statement information, as an electronic data file uploaded via one or more web pages of the website, from an agent of a submitting business containing

financial statement information associated with the submitting business originating from a general ledger accounting system used by the business to maintain its accounting records, the financial statement information having a first format based on a first set of performance classifications and collectively corresponding to the overall financial state of the submitting business;

convert the financial statement information from the first format to a second standardized format based at least in part on a conversion map that maps a correlation between one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and one or more respective performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications;

aggregate the converted financial statement information with financial statement information associated with at least one other business to create a database of standardized private company performance information;

analyze the converted performance information based at least in part on one or more performance metrics; and

provide one or more performance reports of results of the analysis of the converted performance information for display to at least one requesting party.

56.   (Cancelled.)

57.   (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 55, wherein the one or more networked servers are further adapted to:

receive financial statement information containing performance information associated with a second submitting business as an electronic data file uploaded via one or more web pages of the website, the financial statement information associated with the second submitting business having a third format based on a third set of performance classifications;

convert the financial statement information associated with the second business from the third format to the second format based at least in part on a conversion map that maps a correlation between one or more performance classifications of the third set of performance classifications and one or more respective performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications;

aggregate the converted financial statement information associated with the second submitting business with the other aggregated financial statement information;

analyze the converted financial statement information associated with the second submitting business based at least in part on one or more performance metrics; and

provide for the display of one or more performance reports of results of the analysis of the converted financial statement information associated with the second submitting business via the one or more web pages of the website for the second submitting business.

58.   (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 55, wherein the submitting business is one of a group consisting of: a private business; a non-profit organization; and a government agency.

59.   (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 55, wherein the one or more networked servers are further adapted to:

provide a least one alert to at least one requesting party via the website, the alert identifying at least one performance metric of the converted financial statement information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds an adjustable threshold associated with the at least one performance metric that is set by the requesting party.

60.   (Original) The system as in Claim 59, wherein the alert is delivered from the website via at least one of a group comprising: an email; a facsimile; a voice message; and a text message.

61.   (Previously Presented) The method as in Claim 55, wherein the one or more networked servers are further adapted to:

    deliver at least a portion of the converted financial statement information to a requesting party via the website as one or more data files having a format compatible with software operated by the requesting party.

62.   (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 55, wherein one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes a financial account and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes a financial account correlated to a financial account of the first set.

63.   (Previously Presented) The system as in Claim 55, wherein the financial statement information further includes operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes an operational classification

and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes an operational

classification correlated to a operational classification of the first set.

64.-99.   (Cancelled.)

100.   (Currently Amended) A method for automated management of private company

financial statement information comprising:

receiving at a network-based data processing system financial statement information as

an electronic data file upload from an agent of a private business, the financial statement

information containing financial statement information associated with [[a]]the private business,

the financial statement information comprising data taken from that business' general ledger

accounting system, having a user-defined format based on a first set of performance

classifications corresponding to a set of financial accounts, and collectively corresponding to the

overall financial state of the submitting private business;

converting, using an automated process executing on the data processing system, the

received financial statement information from the user-defined format to a standardized format

based at least in part on a mapping process that correlates one or more one or more performance

classifications of the first set of performance classifications and one or more respective

performance classifications of a second set of standardized performance classifications;

aggregating the converted financial statement information with financial statement

information associated with at least one other business thereby creating a database of

standardized private company financial statement information;

automatically analyzing the converted financial statement information based at least in part on one or more performance metrics with the data processing system; and

generating at least one electronic report based on the analyzing, wherein generating a report comprises generating a web page-based analysis dashboard for visualizing results of the analyzing, the dashboard detailing at least one historical trend for one or more performance metrics associated with the business for the private business.

101.   (Currently Amended) A network-based business performance information management system comprising:

a computer system accessible on a computer network and adapted to:

electronically receive at least one business performance information file from an agent of at least one submitting business, the business performance information file containing financial statement information from the submitting business's general ledger accounting system and collectively corresponding to the overall financial state of the submitting business, the financial statement information in first format specified by that business based on a first set of performance classifications corresponding to a set of financial accounts;

convert the information in the at least one business performance information file into a standardized format using a mapping process based on a conversion map that maps one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and a second set of standardized performance classifications;

aggregate the information with converted business performance information of at least one other submitting business thereby creating a standardized database of private company performance information;

analyze the converted performance information based at least in part on one or more performance metrics; and

generate an alert if results of analyzing indicates that at least one performance metric of the converted performance information varies from a corresponding predetermined value by more than an adjustable threshold set by a recipient of the alert.

102. (Currently Amended) A method for gathering private company business performance information comprising:

electronically receiving a file containing financial statement information at a remote computer system over the Internet from an agent of a submitting business, the financial statement information in a first format based on a first set of performance classifications corresponding to a set of financial accounts, the financial statement information associated with a submitting business and taken from that submitting business's general ledger accounting system, the financial statement information collectively corresponding to the overall financial state of the submitting business;

converting the data in the file from the first format to a second standardized format using an automated conversion mapping process that correlates one or more one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and one or more respective performance classifications of a second set of standardized performance classifications;

aggregating the converted data in a database with converted financial statement information of other private companies thereby creating a standardized database of private company financial statement information; and

analyzing the converted financial statement information based at least in part on one or more performance metrics;

generating at least one report based on the results of analyzing for the submitting business; and

providing the at least one report to at least one requesting party upon request.

103.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

generating a conversion map including

providing a graphical user interface displaying user-defined performance classifications, standard performance classifications and indicators of correspondences therebetween,

receiving user input through a selected indicator to correlate one or more user-defined performance classifications to one or more respective standardized performance classifications, and

creating or modifying the conversion map according to the user input.